Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for applying a motion effect using two input images, comprising:

generating a single channel image for each of two input images according to a function that measures, for each pixel, occurrence of a desired characteristic, other than luminance alone, in the input images at each pixel location to provide a single value for each output pixel in the single channel image from a range of values that represent a likelihood of the occurrence of the desired characteristic;

computing an estimate of motion of the desired charaeteristic between the two input images based on the single channel images generated for the two input images; and

processing at least one of the two input images to generate an output image that includes a motion-based effect, wherein the processing uses the computed estimate of motion of the desired characteristic.

2. (Original) The method of elaim 1, wherein the desired characteristic is edge magnitude.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the desired characteristic is proximity to a color; and the function measures the proximity to a color of a region around each pixel location.

4. Cancelled.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein performing the motion-based effect includes generating several images from the two input images according to an interpolation of the computed estimate of motion over time between the two images.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the desired characteristic is edge magnitude.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein:

the desired characteristic is proximity to a color; and

the function measures the proximity to a color of a region around each pixel location.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for applying a motion effect using two input images, comprising:

a processor system; and

a memory storing code which, when executed on the processor system causes the apparatus to: ~~means for~~

generat~~ing~~ a single channel image for each of two input images according to a function that measures, for each pixel, occurrence of a desired characteristic, other than luminance alone, in the input images at each pixel location to provide a single value for each output pixel in the single channel image from a range of values that represent a likelihood of the occurrence of the desired characteristic; ~~and~~

~~means for~~ comput~~ing~~ an estimate of motion of the desired characteristic between the two images using the single channel images generated for the two input images; and

~~means for~~ process~~ing~~ at least one of the two input images to generate an output image that includes a motion-based effect, wherein the processing uses the computed estimate of motion of the desired characteristic.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the desired characteristic is edge magnitude.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the desired characteristic is proximity to a color.

11. Cancelled.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the means for performing generating a motion-based effect includes means for generating several images from the

two input images according to an interpolation of the computed estimate of motion over time between the two images.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the desired characteristic is edge magnitude.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein;

the desired characteristic is proximity to a color; and

~~the means for~~ generating the single channel image involves measuring ~~measures~~ the proximity to a color of a region around each pixel location.

15-16. Cancelled.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein computing the estimate of motion uses a gradient-based method that uses the single channel images generated for the two input images and a constraint that a total of the desired characteristic is constant from one image to a next image, and wherein the gradient-based method comprises computing optical flow for the single channel images.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the ~~means for computing~~ estimate of motion uses a gradient-based method that uses the single channel images generated for the two input images and a constraint that a total of the desired characteristic is constant from one image to a next image, and wherein the gradient-based method includes computing optical flow for the single channel images.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the gradient-based method comprises computing, for each pixel in an image, a vector that describes the motion for the pixel from one image to the next.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the ~~means for computing~~ estimate of motion using a gradient-based method comprises ~~means for~~ computing, for

each pixel in an image, a vector that describes the motion for the pixel from one image to the next.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the gradient-based method comprises using an optical flow constraint equation.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the ~~means for computing~~ estimate of motion using a gradient-based method comprises ~~means for~~ using an optical flow constraint equation.